WRL News

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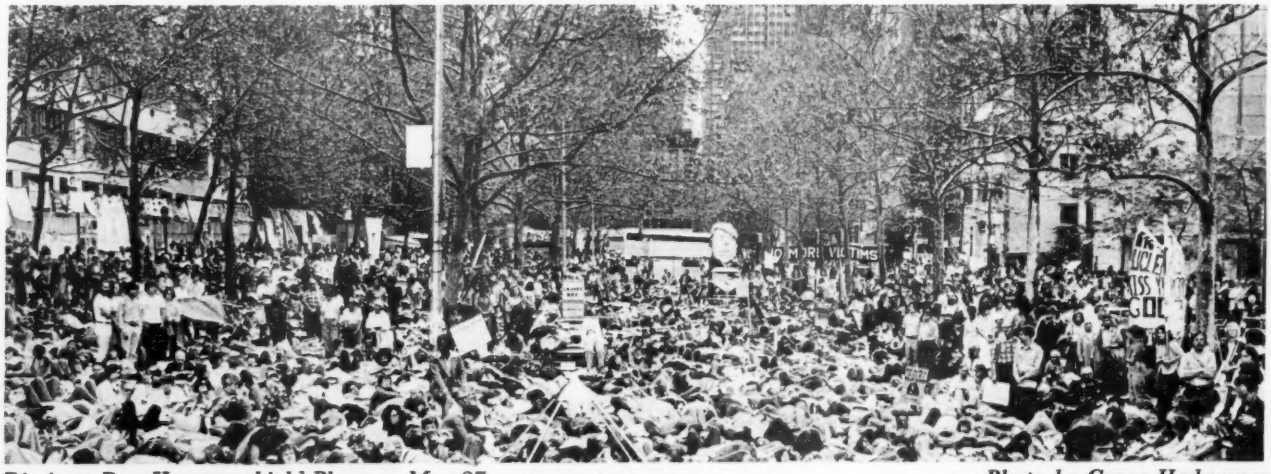
FIVE DAYS IN MAY AND ONE DAY IN JUNE



Die-in at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on May 27. *Photo by Grace Hedemann.*

Mass Rallies Mark Opening Of SSD

by David McReynolds

The famed Hollywood Bowl was filled with 10,000 people on May 21st, as the Los Angeles Alliance for Survival marked the opening of a week of nation-wide actions and rallies demanding disarmament. A day later, and more than a thousand miles to the North, the massive civil disobedience action took place near Seattle (reported elsewhere in this *News*). And on Saturday, May 27th, nearly 2,000 persons rallied in San Francisco to march to the site where the United Nations was born, while three thousand miles to the East, nearly 20,000 persons gathered at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, across the street from the UN, for the largest disarmament rally in decades.

Los Angelenos were jubilant over the Hollywood Bowl turn-out—since L.A. has traditionally been considered "unorganizeable" and has had few mass demonstrations. Even the local media-blackout of the rally did not dampen their spirits. The San

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400 Arrested At U.S. Mission

by Ed Hedemann

In what was *perhaps* the largest mass arrest for a single action in New York City history, 400* people were arrested for "disorderly conduct" when they tried to get into the U.S. Mission to the UN on June 12. About 50 of the 400 received an additional charge of "resisting arrest" when they refused to walk to police vans.

All those arrested were members of one of 30 affinity groups. Most of the affinity groups were set up in nonviolence training sessions the day before. The Sunday training sessions, which lasted about six hours, were followed by an evening decision-making session dealing with certain unresolved aspects of the scenario.

On Monday morning 1,000 demonstrators assembled at Bryant Park, then marched along 42nd Street to the U.S. Mission. About 10,000 leaflets were distributed on the way. The more than 1000 police were equipped with riot gear, horses, TV cameras in

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A Summing Up And Analysis

Reported here and in WIN Magazine are the barest bones of the drama of late May and the June 12th Sit-In. Activities ranged from a remarkable Religious Convocation in the South Bronx, through visits to every Nuclear Power, to the largest Disarmament Rally in the memory of the WRL staff, and one of the largest—if not the largest—mass arrests in the history of New York City. There was also an extremely important International Conference, and a very powerful string of actions that reached from Los Angeles to Seattle to Rocky Flats to Barnwell.

The importance of the actions was underlined by the sudden interest the media began to take. In only one week it "turned itself around"—as an example, the Los Angeles *Times* failed to mention the mass rally of May 21 that took place in the Hollywood Bowl, but a week later, sensing that something new was happening, they put the May 27th New York Rally on page one (and the New York *Times*

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Mass Rallies, continued from page 1

Francisco Rally, in which WRL members also played a leading role, had a "Peace Fair" on the program, and heard messages of support not only from Japanese visitors, but from the city's Mayor who proclaimed May 27th "Disarmament Day," and urged other mayors to do likewise.

In New York City Mayor Koch had turned a deaf ear to pleas that he issue any proclamation to mark the opening of the UN Special Session—but his help was hardly needed as thousands of demonstrators poured into Manhattan from all parts of the nation, busloads coming from Chicago and Boston and Philadelphia, people drove in, New Yorkers almost found themselves outnumbered by their friends and coworkers from out of town—and from around the world. The united Japanese movement had sent more than 500 delegates to take part in the rally and the W.R.I. and International Mobilization people from Western Europe sent a delegation. Scores of Canadians had come down for the event.

Led by the giant puppets of "Bread and Puppet Theatre," the march moved through mid-town Manhattan, up the East Side, to the UN area, where speakers included Ron Kovic, Masuto Higasaki, Dave Dellinger, Terry Provance, Joanne Sheehan, Rep. John Conyers, and others—including powerful entertainment by Pete Seeger, Rev. Frederick Douglass Kirkpatrick, Sweet Honey and the Rock. The high point of the day was a powerful symbolic "Die-In" during which, for more than a quarter of an hour, thousands simulated death from fall-out while the Japanese monks present beat their drums. The rally ended with a massive holding of hands and singing.

As the rallies co-organizers, Connie Hogarth (WILPF) and I felt the numbers that turned out had exceeded our last-minute hopes. WRL Chairwoman, Norma Becker, in expressing her special thanks to the May 27th staff, Anne Boggan and Susan Blake, said that the success of the rally owed much to the staff—and more than words could say to dozens of people in the city itself and in other areas who had worked quietly and hard to pull the event together.

David McReynolds is on the national staff of WRL.

Putting Our Bodies On The Line At Barnwell

by Diane Spaugh

On April 29 over 1500 people converged on Barnwell (South Carolina) to protest the largest planned commercial reprocessing plant in the world. Many folks came with affinity groups, prepared to participate in Monday's civil disobedience at the plant. The affinity groups, mostly from the South, had trained together for the action, and each group had chosen a "spoke" from its number to represent them at the Barnwell Decision-Making Council that met during the 3 days.

On Sunday, April 30, we walked from our "no nuke city" to the Barnwell plant site, where hundreds of balloons were released with messages inside warning people that they are downwind from Barnwell and subject to any potential nuclear fallout from the plant. The balloon release was organized by the Exception and the Rule Theater of Atlanta, and it offered a means through which children could participate in the activities.

Later that afternoon, we heard Dr. Helen Caldicott, Dr. John Goffman, a delegation of Japanese from Hiroshima and others speak on the dangers of nuclear power and weapons. Performer Jackson Browne sang into the night as people drifted off to get some long-awaited sleep (or, in many cases, to endless Barnwell Council meetings).

On Monday, May 1, we retraced our path to the plant site, where many of our number presented themselves as a Human Petition by crossing over onto the property of Allied General Nuclear Services. 280 people were arrested for trespassing, after waiting several hours in the pouring rain. All but 24 of those arrested had bailed out by midnight. The trials of those posting bail were forfeited as the defendants did not show up for the pre-trial hearing the following Friday (except for 2 people who happened to be in the courtroom). The lawyers had assumed that the release statements signed by the defendants would make their appearance in court for the pre-trial hearings unnecessary. Later it was discovered that this does not apply under South Carolina law. The ruling is being appealed by the lawyers at this time.

The 24 people refusing to post bail the day of the arrests immediately went on a hunger strike, which lasted for 5 days until they bailed out to prepare for their trials. Ten of the 24 appeared in court on Wednesday, May 10. One person pleaded "no contest" and was sentenced to 15 days (five of which he had already served). The other nine defendants were sentenced to $30 or 15 days, all of them choosing the sentence over the fine. They returned to jail to serve the remaining 10 days of their sentence and resumed their hunger strike.

As with any action of this type, there were many lessons learned that will hopefully give some direction and basis for future events. On May 28, a good number of us met in Atlanta to evaluate the Barnwell action and to discuss our next steps. We realized that we were not a representative body of people from the south and therefore could not make any major decisions. We then set July 7-9 as the dates for a Southern No-Nuke Strategy Session, at which time we will attempt to get an overview of nuclear facilities in the South and to make some decisions about future anti-nuclear work in this region.

Diane Spaugh is on the Southeast staff of WRL.

Photo by Pepper Walker.

Spectre of death leads human petition march to Barnwell.

Analysis, continued from page 1

at least carried a story on it, deeply buried on an inside page). Reporters began to call and come by to talk with our staff and find out "what has happened."

The following points seems to us among the most important ones to come out of the drama and excitement of the period. First, *disarmament is now a public issue* for the first time in many years. Second, the Mobilization for Survival proved that a new and extremely effective coalition exists, based on regional and local groups. The "Spring Offensive" had been planned back in December at the Chicago Conference, and that Conference was marked by the fact that while some national groups took an active role, the Mobilization drew its great strength from regional and local groupings. Third, it is worth looking for a moment at the role WRL played—not to congratulate ourselves, but to soberly examine the value of the kind of organization WRL is.

WRL was involved from the beginning, since Norma Becker, our Chairwoman, had called the initial meeting which led to setting up MfS, and has since served as a national co-coordinator (along with Terry Provance, of AFSC). WRL staff played a central role on the West Coast (in Northern California the MFS used the WRL office as headquarters), in the Rocky Flats situation (where, though primary credit goes to AFSC and FOR, WRL sent trainers in), in the Barnwell Action (where WRL/Southeast has played a very important role in the Southern situation), and on the East Coast—where David McReynolds served as Co-Convenor of the May 27th Task Force and also arranged the visits to the foreign nuclear powers, where Grace and Ed Hedemann—along with Diane Becker of WRL Executive Committee—put together June 12th. It was the WRL which received the 20,000 names from the French Section of WRI and arranged to transmit them to the UN. And it was WRL which, from work going back ten years, helped lay the foundation for the massive Japanese delegation—and one of the few U.S. groups sponsoring the International Mobilization for Survival Conference.

We stress the role of WRL—and apologize for all the names we have not listed (and want you to know that if staff members Ed, Grace and David were free to give chunks of time to MFS it was only because the other members of staff took on extra work)—because some members wonder "why WRL" when there is a Mobilization. In our view this should be turned around—there is a Mobilization *because* there is a WRL. As during the Vietnam War, where WRL was the *first* peace group to organize public actions, and where the great anti-war coalitions began out of our office, *our role has been central as a continuing body of pacifists who bring a certain clarity of politics and a certain organizational experience to the issues.* We do not believe in any "mystique" of organization—organizations do not live forever. Some outlive the purpose for which they were set up. An organization is only an instrument to help us get things done. But at this point WRL has proven an extremely important "instrument"—and one which not only has justified the money you spend to keep it running, but justifies the *time you spend* working in it and with it.

Finally we want to look beyond the Spring events. Both Steve Ladd of WRL/West and David McReynolds of the National staff have begun circulating papers suggesting the need for long-range strategy. Because, as the fourth point in this analysis, it is clear that several groups are now able to provide leadership and program—AFSC, CALC, WRL, and FOR being among the most important. If they can agree on any kind of long-term program it is possible that we can actually move past "the point of protest" to the "point of change," of being able to *reverse* the arms race. Such a campaign will not be a six-month project, nor a one-year campaign. It will take several years, it will demand more work, more money, more members than any of our groups now have—it means we have to lift our sights. Such a long-term campaign makes it *more* important that groups such as WRL not only work within the coalitions, but that they build their own base in order to make that work more effective.

Fifth, we have seen a breakthrough at one level and failures at other levels. The Religious Convocation has implications even for a secular group such as WRL—it means the religious community is coming alive to the greatest issue of our time—the arms race. But we have failed to reach into trade unions, the minority groups, small business people, etc. Disarmament must cease to be an "abstract issue" and be seen as an immediate issue. The arms race raises our tax burden, it increases inflation, it actually increases unemployment, it leads to the disintegration of the urban areas. But that message is one we have not yet been able to get across. The arms race *is* a moral issue of the first order. *But it is also a practical, material, down-to-earth issue that touches the fabric of every community in America.*

Sixth, WRL's historic position has been confirmed by the "non-events" of the Special Session of the UN—our task is to build an independent international movement, non-aligned, and able to speak truth to every nuclear power. The arms issue is not a "national question" but an "international question" which demands international cooperation. And no government will move without the "pressure of the streets."

To sum up, the events of this spring suggest we are at the *beginning* of something large enough to give some hope of human survival. The Continental Walk of 1976, run by WRL, was in a special sense "the beginning of the beginning." Now the work has reached out far beyond our own ranks—and it is our job, as one of the decisive forces in American political life, to help that process of "reaching out" continue. We have only 8,000 members—but, together with groups such as CALC, AFSC, and FOR, we do now propose to challenge the authority of any State to prepare for or to wage war.

Nonviolence Workshop In South

WRL/Southeast is sponsoring a workshop in nonviolence: a study/training program for organizers July 21-26 in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The workshop will include sessions on the philosophy and politics of nonviolence as well as practical skills and techniques essential for such organizing. Cost is $35 for six days. For more information contact WRL/Southeast, 108 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514, (919) 967-7244.

ROCKY FLATS

by Jim Peck

Coincidentally, I was the first out-of-stater to sign up for the demo at Rocky Flats, April 29. I happened to be out there on a speaking tour in November and attended a meeting of the Rocky Flats National Action Committee at which the Call to Action was approved. I signed up with enthusiasm because, to me, Rocky Flats is the number one obscenity in the U.S. Operated by Rockwell Intl., it is the place where triggers are affixed to all nuclear bombs manufactured in this country. Also, it is the place which has produced samples of the neutron bomb, that Orwellian weapon which kills people, but preserves property (these samples have been tested, underground, in Nevada) and if Carter decides to proceed with production of the neutron bomb, they will be manufactured at Rocky Flats. Although the U.S. (and the Soviet Union) have more than enough nuclear weapons to destroy the whole world, Rocky Flats continues to produce from 3 to 10 a week. In operation since 1952, a number of its workers have been afflicted with radiation—but this has been little publicized.

So, I was at Federal Square in Denver at 10 a.m. April 29 for the opening rally, attended by some 2,000. Representing WRL were Grace Hedemann and I from the national office, Steve Sumerford from WRL/Southeast, Steve Ladd from WRL/West and Craig Simpson from WRL/Southwest. The weather was sunny and warm. After the rally, there was a motorcade out to Rocky Flats, located about 18 miles northwest of Denver.

Rockwell Intl. had adopted an attitude completely opposite to that of Governor Thompson of New Hampshire in the Seabrook situation. Instead of cracking down hard on the demonstrators, it leaned over backwards to be conciliatory. Rockwell permitted the demonstrators to rally on its property—on the private roadway leading into the plant. It permitted parking on the shoulders of this roadway. It did not summon the county police, who had assembled at the gate. The company police were stationed out of sight, beyond the spot where the rally took place. The company police were constantly in negotiations with the Rocky Flats Committee regarding logistics. There was no hostility.

Police about to arrest 22 demonstrators blocking railroad track to Rocky Flats on May 9. Among the demonstrators is Daniel Ellsberg. Photo by Bob Godfrey.

When we arrived at Rocky Flats, the sky had become heavily clouded, adding an appropriate ugliness to the scene. The plant is located on a barren, treeless plain. The rally drew some 6,000 participants from the U.S. and abroad. There was a delegation from Gensuikin, one of Japan's two organizations against A & H bombs. Helen Caldicott, who organized Australian mine workers to stop mining uranium, read a number of messages of solidarity from groups in Australia. There were representatives from France and Germany.

As the rally came to an end, some 150 of us, including Daniel Ellsberg, prepared for a 14-hour sitdown on the railroad track leading into the plant. At about 5 p.m., we entered an opening in the barbed wire fence and walked several hundred yards to the track. Less than an hour later, it started to rain heavily and continued steadily on into the next day. Since this is untypical Colorado weather, some of us were joking that the government had planted rain seeds, like in Vietnam. At about 10 p.m., an NBC reporter arrived and asked us the question: "Do you really think it's worth it to be out in the rain like this?" When it came my turn, I said: "I think the rain helps, because it demonstrates that we really mean it when we ask that this awful plant be closed down."

After the rain started, we erected makeshift shelter on the track, with plastic sheets stretched across unused railroad ties in the vicinity. A few tents were donated. Nevertheless, by morning we were soaked and freezing. The temperature, which had been in the 60s the day before, had dropped into the 30s.

At 7 a.m. the action planned by the Rocky Flats Action Group ended. But some of the sitdowners, including Ellsberg, wanted to stay on. They formed the Rocky Flats Truth Force to sponsor the continuing action. On May 5, all 31 were arrested and released on recognizance. Twenty returned to the site and were rearrested on May 8. The following day, some of them together with some new participants blocked an incoming train loaded with radioactive material—until arrested by police.

Jim Peck is on the national staff of WRL.

As we go to press...

15,000 turn out for Seabrook rally and festival

On June 24-26 approximately 8,000 people entered the Seabrook nuclear power plant site in New Hampshire and set up camp. On Sunday, June 25 several thousand additional people visited the site for an alternative energy fair.

Civil disobedience was called off as a result of a last-minute deal between the Clamshell Alliance and the state of New Hampshire.

SMALL BEGINNINGS AT ROCKY FLATS

by Pam Solo

Philosopher William James once remarked that he was 'finished with large and grandiose schemes and plans.' Change, he thought would come through small, seemingly insignificant actions which would build and gain strength. Like the power of a river building from the rivulets, small and sturdy beginnings would give way to social change.

The April 29th demonstration at Rocky Flats represents the building of a headwaters, a potential force for change. The demonstration came at a key point in a four year long effort to close the plant as a nuclear weapons facility, beginning a process of economic conversion and influence national policy in a substantive way. However, the show of numbers (nearly 6,000), the clarity of the issues transmitted through wide media coverage and the political impact of the demonstration nationwide and in Colorado would not have been possible without some "small beginnings." These carefully laid strategies, like the rivulets have helped to build this headwaters for social change.

One reason for 'small beginnings' is that the larger threat of nuclear war is, ironically, too abstract and difficult to internalize. Through the years we have learned to both deny and accommodate to the threat of nuclear annihilation. The nuclear threat needs to be made real. It needs to be formulated in ways that both confront our denial and demand our attention. The nuclear arms race requires a system of research, production, transportation and deployment. Each phase of this system touches peoples lives in profound ways. These less visible effects of the arms race need to be exposed so that people can better understand what nuclear weapons mean in our lives TODAY.

The daily threat of a Rocky Flats, a Hanford Reactor or of a truck load of plutonium are the entry points for citizens to begin the struggle against nuclear weapons. The health and safety hazards posed by each facility and every phase of the production cycle become an organizing tool to help individuals better understand their involvement in the arms race as well as the toll it takes on our lives and our future.

One goal of the campaign has been to involve new constituencies, to make as many people as possible "own" the problem of the arms race. This does not mean that everyone has to formally join the Rocky Flats Action Group or attend demonstrations, etc. The ultimate hope was that their ownership of the problem would demand action from them in the context of their lives and their network of relationships. For example asking the state Health Department what they were doing to monitor radioactivity from Rocky Flats, what were emergency response plans, etc., made them not only own the problem, but alerted them that we were watching the watchdogs.

In addition to organizing our traditional allies we focussed attention on potential allies. These included groups like the American Cancer Association and county medical societies. The kind of communication that took place with potential allies was a key element in any measure of success. It was, and is, important to have a sensitivity to each individual in order to help create the space for them to move forward both politically and personally. In the case of elected and appointed officials, who often deserve this same support, it was imperative to find a balance and sense of timing for when and how to include a confrontation with the politics of nurturance.

Pam Solo is an organizer for the Rocky Flats National Action and is on staff of the AFSC in Denver.

Rocky Flats on April 29. *Photo by Grace Hedemann.*

NC MEETING MAY 28-29

Over 30 members of the National Committee met for two days following participation in the May 27 rally at the UN. Various items of business were discussed—WRL/Southeast and WIN Magazine both had their grants extended for another year. The theme chosen for the 1980 Peace Calendar is a Graphic Art Calendar edited by Peg Averill. WRLers are encouraged to send in their favorite cartoons and suggestions for graphic artists to the office.

The main topic discussed was the WRL's role in coalitions and its failure to maintain an organizational identity of its own. The need was felt for a specific program which would be "WRL's thing". No clear cut proposals were developed. However, the task forces (disarmament, sexism, racism, class struggle, nuclear power) were asked to develop specific proposals with suggestions for implementation. A coordinating committee (composed of a representative from each task force) would go over the proposals of each task force and try to consolidate them into a unified program. In October the N.C. will decide on the national program based on these proposals.

290 ARRESTED ON TRIDENT BASE

by Brian Siebel

Beginning May 21 four thousand people descended on Bangor (Washington) to nonviolently assault the Trident nuclear submarine base. On May 22 a six-foot fence was scaled by 290 people to occupy the base as 1000 others cheered. Because the authorities refused to charge any but second-time offenders for the May 22 civil disobedience, 266 people re-entered the base on May 23.

The decision to re-enter the base was initiated and supported by all the affinity groups participating in the action. Spokespersons hashed out a new scenario and dealt with questions of cooperation vs. non-cooperation with police and bail solidarity, all the while adhering closely to consensus decision-making.

Obviously, people came to voice an emphatic "NO!" to Trident. They said other things as well. "Women who love women love life—Stop Trident" spoke one banner connecting the sub with this male-dominated society. Other signs said simply "trees," "shoes," or even "glasses" to point to the way Trident robs us of basic needs and useful employment.

Regionally, the thousands that came returned to community organizing. Nationally, the events coincided with the United Sates Special Session on Disarmament, generating national media coverage, and fitting into the recent wave of anti-nuclear direct actions.

Brian Siebel works with Northwest Passage.

The march to the Trident Base on May 22. *Photo by Rex Weyler.*

International MfS Conference

No sooner had the May 27th Rally ended (and the late-night Rock Ball that followed it), than the International Mobilization for Survival began meeting at Columbia University. Hundreds gathered Sunday afternoon May 28, and all day Monday, May 29th, for the sessions. War Resisters' International was one of the "convening organizations," along with its American section, War Resisters League. Peggy Duff, of the International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace, chaired the sessions. The Japanese were present in large numbers, with their own translators.

The International Mobilization had been set up last October at a Geneva meeting of Non-Governmental Disarmament groups (and set up very informally at a meeting in Peggy Duff's room at the modest Masaryk Center). Designed only to coordinate actions around the Special Session, the International Mobilization met again in Geneva in early March. In the months that followed Peggy Duff took on the job of getting out a special bulletin, Gerd Greune (of the German WRI Section) acted as key coordinator in Western Europe, Rev. Sato and Peggy Duff and Terry Provance functioned as coordinators to involve Asia and North America. The two-day sessions in New York stressed the non-aligned nature of the International Mobilization, with active participation from Professor Smilja Avramov of Yugoslavia, Eqbal Ahmed of Pakistan, and Cu Dinh Ba from the Vietnamese Mission to the UN. In view of the world-wide interest in the Mobilization, the present convenors will continue their work with the help of additional "convenors" from the West Coast of the U.S., and from Australia. Peggy Duff will continue issuing the bulletin from London. The Conference closed with a brief and forceful address by Sean MacBride, Nobel Laureate, and head of the International Peace Bureau. There was a strong feeling by those who had taken part that a new, clearly nonaligned and independent, peace movement had begun to take shape.

French Appeal For Disarmament Unilateral

In the midst of the Mobilization's Spring Offensive, with its rallies and conferences, the WRL National Office *almost* missed one of the most important documents to have come by mail in many months. This was the "Proposition de Loi Pour le Desarmement Unilateral de la France"—a proposition for the unilateral disarmament of France, submitted both to the French Government, and, with the help of WRL staff, to the United Nations Secretariat.

This petition for unilateral disarmament is a direct, solid pacifist statement of the political realism and historical imperative of the unilateral position. What sets the statement apart is that the French Section has gathered 20,000 names in support of the statement—a remarkable number in a nation where our movement has not historically been strong—and put together one of the most impressive lists of sponsors we have seen in years: sponsors include Nobel Laureate Alfred Kastler, WRI Council member Pierre Martin (noted for his work in Africa), Yves Montand, Jean Rostand, Simone Signoret, and a number of other French celebrities.

WRL and FOR staff conferred and agreed that Barton Hunter of the FOR, David McReynolds of WRL, and Bo Wirmark of the Swedish FOR, would go with Guy Marchand of the Union Pacifiste, and make clear, when the statement was presented to the United Nations, that it had broad support in this country and internationally.

RELIGIOUS CONVOCATION TOURS SOUTH BRONX

Sponsored by the Religious Task Force of the Mobilization for Survival (and with special thanks to Clergy and Laity Concerned and the Fellowship of Reconciliation), the International Religious Convocation for Human Survival met in New York on Thursday afternoon, May 25, in a dramatic procession through the rubble and burned-out buildings of New York's South Bronx. The Convocation marked a dramatic breakthrough into the religious community, including support from the evangelical wing of the Protestant Church. Religious leaders from virtually all faiths—Buddhist, Hindu, Catholic, Jewish, Protestant, Moslem, and Native American—took part in the two-day affair, from the rally in the South Bronx to the Celebration of Life at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue. Father Paul Mayer, convenor of the Religious Task Force, summed up the message of the Convocation by his statement: "Just as it has been said that war is too serious a business to leave to the generals, so we say today that peace is too serious a business to leave to governments."

DEATH ROW PRISONER USES WRL CALENDAR

Johnny Imani Harris, with whom Jim Peck has been corresponding, wrote: "I have misplaced my 1978 Peace Calendar. Could you please send me another copy. I record my case and court dates on it."

He also requested some legal pads, envelopes and pens which were sent promptly along with the calendar. Jim already has sent him a copy of the 1979 calendar on prisons. And he received it, presumably because it escaped scrutinization by the censor.

In an earlier letter, Imani said that he has a serious ulcer condition requiring soft food, but that Atmore Prison in Alabama refused to supply it. He asked for some bread so that he could buy soft food in the prison canteen. Jim immediately sent him a $50 money order.

JAPANESE DELEGATION MAKES DEEP IMPACT

More than 500 Japanese, carrying with them millions of names (over twenty million) of Japanese demanding disarmament, poured into Manhattan to take part in the May 27th Mass Rally and to lobby the United Nations. The event was considered so important to the Japan Buddha Sangha, toward which WRL has particularly warm feelings because ot its support of the Continental Walk, that they sent the 93-year old leader of their group, the Most Venerable Fuji. He took an active part in the events, including the powerful religious convocation in the South Bronx.

Time will tell how long the spirit of unity can prevail in a badly divided Japanese movement, but at least for the special session the people of Japan spoke with one heart and one voice to the people of the world.

1979 Calendar Ready

Believe it or not—the 1979 calendar is out. And it is one of the most beautiful and interesting yet. Entitled WHILE THERE IS A SOUL IN PRISON...it is all about prisons, with some striking illustrations. Larry Gara is the editor. The price is $3.50 apiece, $13 for four.

While you can place your individual orders now, what we'd really like you to do is to get the calendars into bookstores, particularly the ones with which you are familiar. Bent Andresen, executive committee member, has taken the initiative and others are following suit. You may think it's too early, but such is not the case. The bookstores start purchasing their calendars around this season. Discounts Available For Bookstores And Organizations On Quantity Orders. Write For Details.

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VISITS TO NUCLEAR MISSIONS

The greatest attention was paid, naturally, to the visit with Ambassador Andrew Young. In the middle of the massive May 27th rally, a delegation of 18 persons, led by Jimmie Durham, left the crowded plaza and moved down to the U.S. Mission where they met for more than an hour with Ambassador Young. Young engaged in a lively and essentially friendly exchange with the delegation, and later came down and, with his aides, walked among the crowds at the rally. But while Young was charming, he made it clear there was no readiness in the Carter Administration to take any serious initiatives.

No less important, however, were the visits to the Chinese, Soviet, Indian, French, and British Missions that took place earlier in the week. In each case the discussions were—as diplomats might put it—"frank exchanges" and confirmed the fear that every government was waiting for the others to take the first step. But at least each nuclear power heard, firmly, clearly, and without compromise, the demand that *every* nuclear power had an obligation to move unilaterally to break the present deadlock.

ADOLFO PEREZ FREED

After being held in jail without charges for a year and 11 days, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Latin American nonviolent leader, was released on May 15. He is Buenos Aires coordinator of Servicio Paz y Justicia, the agency coordinating nonviolent action, training and education in Latin America.

He has been nominated for the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize by the 1976 winners, Betty Williams and Mareid Corrigan of Northern Ireland.

WRL takes this opportunity to thank the many WRL NEWS readers who wrote protest letters to Argentinian officials and sent copies of their letters to the office. During the campaign, the League picketed both the Argentinian Consulate and the Mission to the UN.

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cherry pickers, helicopters, and about 50 motor scooters.

About 100 feet from the U.S. Mission, the march was stopped by a police barricade. A press conference was held at which statements by Grace Paley, Scott Herrick, Norma Becker, and representatives from Rocky Flats, Trident, Seabrook, and Barnwell actions were made.

As Charlie King sang, the police opened part of the barricades to allow those of us risking arrest to get closer to the U.S. Mission. We were stopped just short of First Avenue in front of the U.S. Mission by a line of police. A final request was made to allow us to get to the U.S. Mission. After that was turned down by Mission officials, we were informed that we would be arrested if we remained.

As the arrests began, police carried most of those who refused to walk on stretchers. Every five demonstrators were handcuffed together on a long chain, until the police ran out of such equipment. Despite preparations, the numbers arrests must have surprised the authorities since several city buses driving up First Avenue were stopped by police who announced "I'm commandeering this bus. Everybody off."

The people arrested came from about 30 states with ages ranging from their teens to their seventies. The last group arrested was composed entirely of minors. About five of those arrested were released because their arresting officer felt they had done nothing wrong. Another arresting officer was walking around at the police station with a Sit-in button pinned next to his badge. Generally, the atmosphere between police and demonstrators was quite pleasant, punctuated with much conversation of why we were demonstrating.

U.S. Mission demonstrators being loaded into police wagons on June 12. Photo by Jeffrey Schwartz.

Processing took five hours for some and a few minutes for others. The first couple dozen arrested were placed in individual cells built almost 10 years before for anti-Vietnam war demonstrators—but *never used.* Arraignment dates were spread out in July and August.

Before June 12 a number of people feared that the media and the government would distort the demonstration into being *against* disarmament, the UN, or the Special Session. However, the publicity was surprisingly good—all national TV networks, all New York metropolitan stations, UPI and AP photos and stories, radio, a note on the front page of the New York *Times* with an article inside and photo of WRL staffmember Grace Hedemann being carted away on a stretcher, and articles in several other papers across the country. In fact, President advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski was reportedly very unhappy with the extensive and fair coverage.

Disarmament Times (published by the NGO Disarmament Committee) did a survey about the Special Session with the person-on-the-street in New York and found "a sizeable number of those interviewed had become aware of the session only after passing by or hearing about the sit-in. . . ." One woman commented "I had read about Carter's speech in the papers, but these things don't relate to the man (sic) in the street until you actually see people involved on the street—then it becomes relevant."

* Estimates range from 381 by the news media to 415 by police intelligence.

Ed Hedemann is on the national staff of WRL.

Spanish COs End Fast

A group of Spanish COs ended a 20-day fast on June 28 aimed at publicizing the issue of CO rights.

Demands included raising of the CO issue in the Cortes (Parliament) with a view toward enacting legislation and immediate release of all imprisoned COs. WRL wired the fasters a message of solidarity.

Election Results

Elected to the Executive Committee for a three year term: Wendy Schwartz, Ann Davidon, Maris Cakars, Allan Solomonow. Elected to the National Committee for three years: Western Region—Nanci Bower, Peter Klotz Chamberlain; Midwestern Region—Inuka K.S. Mwanguzi, Ruth Dear; Southern Region—Linda Bruce; Eastern Region—Joanne Sheehan.

Regional Conferences

Western Region: August 25-27 at John Woolman School near Nevada City, California. For details contact WRL/West, 1360 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Phone (415) 626-6976.

Eastern Region: July 28-30 at Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, New York. For details contact WRL at 339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012. Phone (212) 228-0450.

A Reminder For Funds

Recently you received Grace Paley's warm letter pointing out why you should send funds to the WRL. We thank all of you who were moved to send in contributions for WRL's work in the past and for the future. If you were moved but haven't gotten around to sending in your contribution, now is the time to do it. THANKS.